

Subject OK KORINEK, Jan of. Prague, CSR DOB ca. 1923 in Kosice, CSSRSource : France Declassify 59

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1. Subject is Czech, Director of Technical Department of Stone and Sand Industry of the Ministry of Construction in Prague, his address stated as: Odborove Sdruzeni N.P. Prumyslu Kamene, Praha, Machova 21. His department supplies raw materials for constructions and he has 400 respective storages all over the CSR under his supervision. He is 42-45, born in Kosice grew up and was educated in Czechia, married, his wife is the daughter of a Czech settler from Kharkov region, Ukraine. Her uncle still lives in Khark oblast and at one time has tried to resettle to CSR but failed. The Soviet authorities have refused his application. Subject and his wife used to visit him in recent years.

June 28 and 29 Subject was travelling with Source from Paris to Arras-Metz-Reims, and back to Paris. Near Metz, at Longwy they visited a branch of Source's firm. Subject arrived to France as an official representative of his Ministry to get familiar with machines manufactured, and methods of concrete constructions, used by source's firm and start eventual preliminary negotiations on purchase of respective equipment.

Source and subject talked Czech and after learning that they were more less "compatriots" (Source told him that he left CSR only in 1947) the former felt quite at ease and discussed quite freely various political topics.

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According to Subject there is a strong pro-western reorientation among Czech technical and military cadres going on now due to general relaxation of the regime and decreased direct control of the Kremlin.

The tendency to criticize and even ridicule Soviet technical equipment and technological methods is prevailing. Comparisons drawn between Soviet and Western technology are always favorable for the latter. "Sociologically" this is not only due to bad performance of Soviet equipment but primarily to the arrival in responsible positions of young educated generations, both in industry and the military, and to general increase of anti-Russian sentiments in those facets of the Czech population.

The Czech traditional Russophilism has practically vanished. The historical German threat is fully realized but the main danger nowadays is seen in the Russian and not German expansion.

Subject wanted to know what exactly General de Gaulle meant by his

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concept of Europe. When Source explained that this should include European Russia/ as well Subject replied that it wouldn't work. "Russia should be excluded because otherwise Europe would fall victim to some new Russo-German scheme. Moscow and Berlin could always agree to devouring other peoples between them". Europe without Russia could check an eventual revival of German nationalism but it would be helpless against both - German and Russian.

Asked about Sudetenland Subject replied that this was just the point that only within a proper European solution this problem could be solved as well. According to Subject more and more young people not only in the CSR but also in other satellite countries are looking for a new really European solution which would separate them from Russia/ and protect from Germany.

3. As to Sudetenland itself Subject described as a kind of "desert" still economically underdeveloped , shun by the Czech elements able to occupy and manage it properly. It is still in a "provisionary status".

4. Subject complained about Slovaks who in his opinion possess nowadays quite a strong position not only on their own territory but in Prague itself yet still often pretend to be discriminated against. On this occasion he referred again to "a European concept" that would unite both, Western and Eastern Europe, without Russian territories, and for good solve all old national conflicts among all Europeans. When Source ~~marked~~ remarked that Subject was actually talking about "American concept of a united Europe" he denied it pointing out that America wanted to make just ~~her~~ appendage out of Europe whereas he was thinking of "an independent Europe".

5. Recent rehabilitation of former airmen ~~mark~~ of the RAF is just one of the results of above mentioned pro-Western re-orientation in the military. Today former RAF officers are allowed to travel to the West.

6. Asked about the future of the Soviet block , Subject replied that its further disintegration was unavoidable and nothing could stop it. Furthermore, even inside of the Soviet Union the process of disintegration has fertile ground , In a few years, provided the internal ~~mark~~ situation will not change unexpectedly to the opposite because of some critical international developments, it will engulf the USSR as well. "The Ukrainians will be the first to break off", judging by what he has heard from his relatives in Kharkov area.

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7. Asked why the Czechs behaved "so calm" during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, he replied that this had not been altogether so. As an example Subject mentioned a fact at his factory in Moravia that had happened at that time. During a meeting at which a party official asked to condemn the Hungarian Revolution by raising hands for a respective resolution, one engineer abstained. Asked why he did not vote, the engineer replied that in his opinion Hungarians themselves knew better what to fight for. After the meeting he was arrested and put into prison. Only recently he was released and put as a foreman (not engineer) to uranium mines near Moravská Ostrava.

According to Subject there were many similar incidents in the CSR at that time.

8. According to Subject the SNB is regarded to be even worse than the Gestapo. People know about defections and crossings of border; thus all knew and admired the feat with the locomotive and the tank that had crossed <sup>over</sup> to Austria. There was still a strict check of sport planes including taking off of propellers after landing. Many fliers had, however their own wooden propellers "just <sup>ready</sup> for any emergency".

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